



The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

Charlotte Hamfest—Good Forums, Great Camaraderie

Why do you go to a hamfest? Browse the flea market? Peruse vendor displays? Attend forums? Submit your QSLs for awards? Meet old friends?

You can experience all of the above at Charlotte's Hamfest. Be sure to plan your visits to the flea market and vendor displays around the forum sessions, because there are some dandy forums for 2009. All the following forums will be in Room B.

W4VHF	Ted Goldthorpe	President
AD4IE	Paul Ponak	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
W3OA	Dick Williams	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	Cluster Mgr.- North Area
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

9:00-9:45 NC Army Mars:"A New Direction for Army Mars" Speaker: Reggie Faust.

10:00-11:30 ARRL Roanoke Division Convention; Presiding: Dennis Bodson (W4PWF); Roanoke Division Service Award; Regulatory Update, ARRL's Dan Henderson (N1ND).

11:45-12:45 Willis Island DXpedition (VK9DWX) by Josh Fisher (W4WJF).

1:00-2:00 Desecheo Island DXpedition (K5D) by Gregg Marco (W6IZT).

2:15-3:15 ICOM's D-Star Repeater System Basics by Steve Koone (KA4YMY) and Ken Johnston (KC4YOZ).

Gary Dixon (K4MQG), Bill McDowell (K4CIQ), and Dan Henderson (N1ND, ARRL HQ staff) will be checking those precious QSL cards so they don't have to be out of your grasp for more than several hours!

If you need time to gab, the CDXA booth is the place to find your buddy since many members hover in that vicinity for convenience in finding old friends. If you need even more time to chat about what you've been doing lately, hopefully you have reservations for you and your buddy for the CDXA Banquet being held at the Texas Land and Cattle Company on Saturday evening. There are door prizes again this year again, with the Grand Prize being a Yaesu FT-857D for the lucky winner. (See details elsewhere in this issue.) Oh, almost forgot, we'll also have a 13" desktop version of the every popular **Gemstone Globe** as a raffle prize at the CDXA booth again this year, so set a few dollars aside for your raffle ticket(s).

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems		
W4DXA (11 mi. NE of Mooresville)	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.00 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91 MHz (1200 bits/second)	Not Available on 9600 bits/second
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com	
NA4L (Near Hillsville, VA)	144.95 MHz (1200 bits/second) Connect to NA4L ("C NA4L")	
NA4L (AR Cluster via Telnet)	cdxa.no-ip.org	
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC	
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org	
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Murphy's Food and Spirits, 131 E. Woodlawn Road, Charlotte, NC	

Ten and Twenty Years Ago

(All the material in this article was extracted from old issues of The Pileup available on the CDXA website. If you've not yet visited the archive, check it out—there is lots to enjoy there.)

Twenty Years Ago

Ron Wright (ZL1AMO), always active in the South Pacific, was in Tuvalu for several weeks handing out QSOs. . . . Martti Laine (OH2BH) and friends were soon to be active from Western Sahara. . . . Ken Boyd and an unnamed group of CDXAers had returned from a DXpedition to Saint Martin where they put 2000 QSOs in the log. . . . Conway Reef (3D2/C) was in the process of becoming accepted as a new DXCC entity.

Ten Years Ago

CDXA President Bob Burton was looking forward to meeting all CDXAers who were to come to the Charlotte Hamfest from across the Carolinas. . . . the raffle prize for the 1999 Hamfest was a Brookstone Tool Set (remember that?). . . . Palestine had recently become a new DXCC entity and D44DX had just finished up operations, and on their heels were groups from Hungary (HA) and Japan (JA). . . . Fred Laun (K3ZO) made a guest appearance in *The Pileup* and talked about his experiences in the recently completed 1999 ARRL International CW DX Contest. . . . Editor Don Daso (K4ZA) provided some sage advice on acquiring and erecting your antenna farm. . . . WC1M's comments from a reflector on the Internet provided all with a reminder that there was a different way of DXing before arrival of the PacketClusters.

The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Dues are \$30 per year for those using the PacketCluster maintained by the Association, \$15 otherwise, payable each December. Dues are payable by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: jcw53@cornell.edu.

DXCC Challenge Leaders

CDXA members continue to work on their numbers for the DXCC Challenge award. The Challenge Award counts every unique entity and band QSO. With 10 bands from 160m to 6m and 338 entities total, the maximum one can earn is 3380. The top five below are getting into the "rarified atmosphere". The list below is as of February 1, 2009.

Congratulations to all CDXA members who have earned at least 1000 Band/Entities. Keep up the good work.

Callsign	Name	Band Entities
N4JJ	Jack Jackson	3007
K4CIA	Bill McDowell	2996
K4MQG	Gary Dixon	2947
AA4V	Steve Reichlyn	2644
N2TU	Lou Dietrich	2495
N4PQX	Bob Burton	2181
KZ2I	Steve Sullivan	2169
KS2X	Dennis McAlpine	2141
N4TL	Tom Lewis	1841
K4VNY	Mac Murray	1750
WA8WV	David Ellis	1728
K8YC	John Scott	1723
W4GMY	Charles Gray	1711
K4SV	Dave Anderson	1710
W3OA	Dick Williams	1687
N4AA	Carl Smith	1635
W4RDX	James Blythe	1571
WA3GNW	Bruce Gibson	1563
AA4SC	Ric Porter	1543
W4HG	Wayne Ashworth	1534
WA4DOU	Roy Lincoln	1489
K4MK	Kent Miller	1474
N1GC	Gary Colborne	1409
N4ZY	James H. Brown	1295
W4UFO	"Nobby" Mills	1278
W4MPY	Wayne Carroll	1259
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	1250
KS4S	Nyles McKeithan	1205
N4HN	Thomas Wright	1200
W7DO	Gary Martek	1182
KU4BP	Ed Swiderski	1171
NK0S	"Hutch" Hutchinson	1169
W4AG	Stan Dicks	1166
W4ZV	Bill Tippet	1032
N2BT	William Thomas	1013

Sold Out!

CDXA Hamfest Banquet

2009 brings a banquet worth remembering! Good food, prizes, and an evening of camaraderie.

The Meal:

Texas Land & Cattle Steak House

Exit 49 off I-85—Concord Mills

Choose from 3 different entrees, plus all the trimmings including dessert, coffee, tea, or soda; tax and tip.

\$22.95

Cash Bar

The Prizes: Everyone at the banquet gets a “chance” ticket.



Grand Prize: FT-857D



**Two \$100 Gift Certificates for
DX Engineering Products**



**Admission tickets (2) to SEDCO
Conference & Banquet**



Scott Davis' (N3FJP) Software Suite



**Subscriptions to QRZ DX or DX Magazine
From DX Publishing, Inc.**



**Subscriptions and other gifts from
CQ Magazine**



Gift items from ARRL



Goodies from Ten-Tec . . . and more!

Midway Island—A Look Back

By Dick Genaille, W4UW

Because of recent happenings regarding Midway Island (Atoll), I thought the readers of the *Pileup* might be interested in a visit to Midway that I made back in 1967.

The 50s and 60s saw the birth and growth of the U.S. Navy's Sound Surveillance System (SOSUS) for submarine detection and tracking. This was the time of the Cold War with the Soviet Union.

I was involved with this program for 8 years as a Communications Planning Engineer for the Western Electric Company which, with the Bell Telephone Laboratories, had contracts with the Navy for development of the SOSUS system. Underwater cables with hydrophones were installed at certain strategic locations along our Atlantic and Pacific coasts with processing locations on shore called NAVFACs. The main processing points for the information collected were the Commander of Ocean Systems Atlantic (COSL) and the Commander of Ocean Systems Pacific (COSP) located at Norfolk, VA and Treasure Island, CA, respectively. COSP was eventually moved to Ford Island at Pearl Harbor, HI when the Pacific system was expanded. The SOSUS mission was highly classified and it was not until 1991 that it was declassified.

My job took me to various locations along both coasts of the U.S. as well as to the Pacific to Pearl Harbor, Midway Atoll, Guam, and even to Japan. Some of the distant locations were Adak in the Aleutians and Iceland in the Atlantic.

In 1967 I visited Midway Atoll with a survey team composed of Navy, Western Electric and Bell Labs personnel. I had the opportunity to visit Sand Island as well as Eastern Island to establish possible locations for a NAVFAC building. A tropospheric scatter installation was located on Eastern Island and was being dismantled due to Midway being a key location for the Pacific undersea cable and the scatter system no longer being required for Pacific communications. Eastern Island was also a bird sanctuary and posed a logistic problem for the Navy. It was decided that the NAVFAC should be located on Sand Island.

Sand Island was a busy place at the time of my visit as a refueling site for civilian and military aircraft. During WWII it was the scene of a tremendous land and sea

battle with the Japanese. It was also, in a sense, a bird sanctuary especially for the Laysan Albatross or the "gooney" bird as the albatross was called. There were nests everywhere with nesting birds sitting on usually one egg. Government scientists were checking as many nests as possible to study the habits of the albatross as to the bird's return to the close proximity to nest near where it had been born. One of the scientists made a presentation to a luncheon group at the Navy Officer's Club where I learned much about what they were doing regarding the albatross study.

My visit to Midway was quite interesting in another aspect. I did not foresee that there was a "ham" station there and my license was not something I carried around on my trips so I was not in a position to operate at Midway. I did visit the ham shack, which was located in a large hangar. While there I spotted a copy of CQ magazine in which there was a recent article of mine. Of course, I had to point it out to the fellows that were there that I was the guy who wrote the article. That gave me some credibility!

I have some home 8 millimeter movies, which are now on tape, that I took while I was at Midway. It shows a boat trip to Eastern Island, people teasing the "gooney" fledglings, exotic birds sitting on eggs in their nests, an aircraft taxi ramp and a few other things. Nothing really exciting, however—just home movies!

The NAVFAC at Sand Island was in service for 24 years. It was commissioned January 13, 1969. I have heard that the building has been demolished but don't know what became of the cable and hydrophones. I wish that I knew what eventually happened. The only place on the Internet that I have found references to the NAVFAC is at "Sand Island, Midway Atoll, SOSUS NAVFAC" which also describes the SOSUS mission and some of the locations.

You wouldn't believe how we tracked a Soviet submarine coming down the Atlantic from Iceland, going around South America and then picking them up as they headed for the submarine pens at Vladivostok.

The system was absolutely fantastic!

Vy 73, Dick, W4UW

CDXA Members on DXCC Honor Roll As of February 1, 2009

Callsign	Name	Mixed	Phone	CW	Digital
AA4V	Steve Reichlyn	338	338	337	
K4BVQ	Frank Dowd	338	335		
K4CIA	Bill McDowell	338	338	336	
K4DXA	Ken Boyd	338	338		
K4MK	Kent Miller		338		
K4MQG	Gary Dixon	338	338	336	
K4YR	"Pat" Parrish	338			
KZ2I	Steve Sullivan	338	338	332	
N2TU	Lou Dietrich	338	338	337	335
N4AA	Carl Smith	338			
N4TL	Tom Lewis	338	337		
N4XO	Dave Rawley	338			
N4ZC	Roger Burt	338	337		
W4LK	Lawrence Kirkland	338			
W4MBD	Robert McNeill II	338	338		
W4NL	Lynn Lamb	338			
W4VHF	Ted Goldthorpe	338	338		
W4ZV	Bill Tippet	338			
WA8WV	David Ellis	338			
AA4S	Ron Bailey	337	337		
AK4N	Grady Robinson	337			
K4ESE	Neill Singletary	337			
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	337			
N4JJ	Jack Jackson	337	337	336	
N4ZY	James H. Brown	337			
W1WW	George Felber	337			
W4AG	Stan Dicks	337			
W4BUW	George Hall	337	333		
W4MPY	Wayne Carroll	337		336	
W4UNP	Bill Jennings		337		
W4UW	Dick Genaille	337	337	331	
K2SX	Dennis McAlpine	336		332	
K4SI	Bob Cranford	336		333	
K4ZA	Don Daso	336			
N4PQX	Bob Burton	336	336		
W3OA	Dick Williams	336	336		
AA4R	Bill Parris	334	331		
K2SD	Scott Douglass	334			
K4ZO	Bruce Gragg	334	330		
W4HG	Wayne Ashworth	334			
WA4MWX	Dick Talbert	334			
W3NC	Bill Riffle		333		
K4QVK	Arlin Wilson		332		
W4RDX	James Blythe	332			
AA4SC	Ric Porter	331			
K4SV	Dave Anderson	331			
N4ZX	John Lambert	330			
N1GC	Gary Colborne	329			
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	329			
W4UFO	"Nobby" Mills	329	329		

CDXA Members—DXCC

The list below displays all members of CDXA as of February 1, 2009 who hold the DXCC Certificate. The list consists of 108 callsigns accounting for over 65% of the membership. Congratulations to all!

AA4R	K8ARY	W3NC
AA4S	K8YC	W3OA
AA4SC	KF4NEF	W3ZL
AA4V	KI4TZ	W4AG
AA4ZZ	KQ4O	W4BUW
AD4IE	KS4S	W4CCW
AF1E	KU4BP	W4DEE
AI4YR	KU4V	W4GMY
AK4N	KZ2I	W4HG
IN3ZNR	N1GC	W4ILC
K0COP	N1PD	W4LK
K2SD	N2BT	W4MBD
K2SX	N2HV	W4MPY
K3IRV	N2TU	W4NL
K4BVQ	N2XD	W4NUS
K4CIA	N4AA	W4NZC
K4DGJ	N4AYO	W4PVT
K4DXA	N4BH	W4RDX
K4ESE	N4JJ	W4UNP
K4IZE	N4PQX	W4UW
K4KL	N4QOG	W4VHF
K4LVV	N4QT	W4WNT
K4MD	N4QVM	W4ZV
K4MK	N4TL	W6NWS
K4ML	N4UFP	W7DO
K4MQG	N4WMB	WA3GNW
K4PZT	N4XO	WA4DOU
K4QVK	N4YZ	WA4MWX
K4SI	N4ZC	WA4OBO
K4SV	N4ZX	WA8WV
K4TP	N4ZY	WB2RHM
K4VNY	N8WRL	WB4ROA
K4YR	NK0S	WB4TLX
K4ZA	W1WW	WD4PDZ
K4ZO	W3GQ	WD4PIC

"Brix", IN3ZNR, Shines in QST

In May 2008 CDXA member Fabrizio "Brix" Vedovelli (IN3ZNR), recently returned from Rwanda operating with the 9X0R team., treated all CDXA members to a timely, first hand account of the DXpedition. In the March, 2009 issue of *QST*, the rest of American amateurs were treated to a similar presentation of the DXpedition, also prepared by Brix. We are all pleased now that Brix is a "published" author in one of the fine journals of amateur radio! Check out page 56 of the March issue of *QST*. And, to Brix, thank you for giving CDXA the early lowdown on your expedition.

Welcome New Members!!

February provided the opportunity to welcome two new members to the ranks of CDXA. **Eric Hasson (KJ4DLJ)** brought his young son Cameron to our luncheons several times in the last half of 2008 after CDXA provided a complimentary membership to Cameron. Cameron had passed his license exam at age 6, and was the subject of a story in the *Charlotte Observer*, when son, mother, and father all became “hams” at the same exam session. (See the July, 2008 issue of *The Pileup*.) Eric hails from Gastonia. So, for 2009, Eric became a paying member after getting a taste of our informal luncheons. It looks like Cameron will still get to read the Pileup when it comes out! Welcome, Eric.

Cullin Hall (KD4DIT) of Dallas, NC recently sent in his application for membership. Your editor has yet to meet Cullin, but with a “DIT” in his callsign, he must surely be a CW aficionado! We are looking forward to seeing Cullin at the Charlotte Hamfest. Welcome to you, Cullin.

Three Man Triple Play

Three members of the Carolina DX Association completed the ARRL Triple play award in the second month of 2009. First across the line for CDXA in this new award is **Ben Wasilauskas, K4GHS** with Certificate #126 dated February 6. Over near Lumberton, NC, **Nyles McKeithan, KS4S** rounded up the requisite confirmed contacts using Logbook of the world to earn Certificate #168 on February 13. Close on Nyles’ heels was **Thomas Wright, N4HN**, with Certificate #174 dated February 18.

Please note that these three men were not put “out” in the Triple Play—instead, they all “completed” a Triple Play single-handedly. The only “out” they made was in being out of the competition now that they’ve completed it successfully! Congratulations to all three of you for your fine showing in this newest ARRL award program.

Alternate CDXA Cluster via Telnet

In October, 2008, the *Pileup* announced that Dave Newman’s NA4L had been set up on 144.95 MHz as an AR-Cluster node operating at 1200 bits/second on packet radio. The logon sequence is “C NA4L”. Paul Sturpe is now pleased to report that this same node can be accessed via a telnet connection to “cdxa.no-ip.org”. NA4L receives its spots from K4MD. In the event K4MD becomes unavailable, NA4L will reconnect to an alternative site to ensure availability of DX spots.

In those rare instances when you find K4MD to be unavailable, try a connection to NA4L. Be sure to let Joe Simpkins, K4MD, or Paul Sturpe, W3GQ, know if either site becomes unavailable. Starting with this issue of the *Pileup*, the telnet address for NA4L will always be at hand in the table at the bottom of the front page.

2008 ARRL September VHF QSO Party Results

Do you remember what you were doing on September 13, 2008? You do if you live in eastern Texas, because that’s when Hurricane Ike came ashore. The troposphere was a little disturbed in that part of the world that weekend, and VHF contesters there most likely had their minds on something other than throwing RF into the air. Yet back atop the Blue Ridge mountains, the AA4ZZ team was engaged in digging out VHF QSOs when they could be found.

Other teams were digging, too. From the scores shown, the going was a bit tougher than in earlier years, but the results were satisfying nonetheless. The Southeast USA put on a good showing in the limited multioperator category, with three of the top four finishers nationwide coming from this region. The perennially tough competitors K8GP and W4IY led the way to the finish line ahead of AA4ZZ from the Southeast. W3SO from the Northeast Metroplex slipped in behind K8GP for a second place nationwide in the limited multioperator category.

Former CDXA member, Doug Allen (K4LY) had an excellent outing in the single operator, low power category, capturing first place in the Southeast and 6th place nationally. Full details can be found on Page 83 of the March, 2009 issue of QST.

Ready, Set, Upgrade!

So you’ve been planning on becoming an Amateur Extra Class operator, huh? Now is the time to “get ‘er done”. Are you somewhat close to Gastonia, NC? Starting on March 26 on every Thursday night from 7:00 to 9:00PM through May 14, there will be a class to prepare you for the Amateur Extra Licensing Exam. It will be taught at Southminster Presbyterian Church, 1401 Hoffman Road, Gastonia. Suggested text is “ARRL’s Extra Q & A”, priced at \$17.95.

For details and to enroll, contact Joe Hull (hulljoe@gmail.com).

Thanks to Joe Millard, K4KJM, for providing this information.

A Report on Skimmer Operation in ARRL CW Contest

Dick Williams, W3OA

Our use of CW Skimmer to augment the DX spots provided by the Packet Cluster during this year's ARRL CW DX Contest seems to have been very successful. Users found the additional spots Skimmer provided quite helpful.

First, a description of how Skimmer was set up. The software defined radio, an SDR IQ, and the computer running Skimmer were located at K4DXA, Ken Boyd's QTH. Ken has a very nice set of antennas far enough from any contest stations to avoid adverse impacts on Skimmer's reception. He kept his tribander and 40 meter beam pointed at Europe throughout the contest. Skimmer used the 40 meter beam each day from 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. and the tribander the rest of the time. There was another program on the Skimmer computer that cycled Skimmer's frequency through the various bands on a periodic basis. CW Skimmer was set up to spot only stations calling CQ that are listed in the MASTERDX.DTA file of active contest stations. The Skimmer computer was connected to the Internet via Ken's local area network and he set his router to forward two ports to the Skimmer computer. One port was for a telnet connection and the other to allow remote monitoring and control of the computer using UltraVNC.

The rest of the setup was at my QTH. I used three separate programs, WintelNetX by K1TTT, a telnet server program, and UltraVNC viewer. WintelNetX allows cross connecting telnet connections and it combined the Skimmer spots with Packet Cluster spots from the K4MD node and feed them to the server program. CDXA users then used telnet connections from their computers to this server program to get the spots.

So how did it work? Apparently pretty well. After the contest I asked users what they thought. Here's a summary of their comments:

- o It was easy to use. The operation was transparent. All a user needed to do was establish one telnet connection.
- o Got a lot more spots than seen in previous contests. Skimmer spotted stations that weren't spotted on the Cluster.
- o Chances of hearing a station spotted by Skimmer are a lot better than hearing a station spotted from the Cluster because the Skimmer was local.
- o Skimmer spots didn't cause "packet pileups" so

it was easier for me to work stations Skimmer spotted.

- o Didn't notice a lot of errors in Skimmer spots.

Their comments also provided some suggestion for improvement. I'll be working on these between now and CQWW this October.

Here's an interesting side note. Some of you may know Dave, W9ZRX. He's the networking guru who helps K4MD and W3GQ keep the CDXA Packet network running smoothly. He also sets up the computer network and operates at K3LR, one of the most prominent multi-multi contest stations in the Country. He learned about our Skimmer and asked to connect to it during the contest. He stayed connected the entire contest and sent me an email after the contest. "... just wanted to thank you for letting K3LR connect to your Skimmer this weekend. Being able to get Spots from another US site was invaluable."

The 2009 North Carolina QSO Party Contesting in Real Foul Weather

By Dick Williams, W3OA

The North Carolina QSO Party (NCQP) ran on Sunday, March 1, the day Charlotte got lots of rain, high winds, and six inches of snow. This weather had a big influence on the course of the QSO Party.

Mobile operations are a major feature of the NCQSOP. Stations can work fixed stations only once per band/mode combination but they can work mobile operators in every county the mobile passes through, with each county being a multiplier. A mobile can contact fixed stations again after he changes counties. So some mobile operators make very meticulous plans to activate as many counties as they can, concentrating on rarer counties, during the ten-hour contest period. They then announce their plans on the NCQP email reflector. This usually occurs during the weeks just prior to the contest and it happened again this year. But, forecasts for foul weather caused many of the mobile operators to rethink their plans. Many Friday and Saturday emails came out announcing a number of mobile operations had been cancelled.

Club stations were effected, too, if operators had to travel from home to the operating location. CDXA's operation took place from near Shelby at AA4S, Ron's house. This meant some of the operators had travel times over an hour. We had planned on six operators

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

but travel conditions caused two of them to cancel. Of course AA4S was there all day. W3ZL, Cliff, and I were the early shift. Cliff left about 3 p.m. and had no problems getting home to Davidson. I left about 5 p.m. and ran into heavy winds and slush build up on the roads to Mooresville. N4HN, Thomas, operated the middle shift and left about 8 p.m. He didn't make it home to Charlotte that night—finding road conditions so bad he spent the night at a motel in Shelby.

The weather also affected antenna performance. We had planned on using two antennas on 20m, a beam and an H-double bay. We started operating on 20m at noon in an effort to get as many state multipliers as possible before 20 closed. We found a high SWR on the beam, apparently caused by the heavy rain. Weather also spoiled our attempt to work locals on 10 meters. Ron was on 28.360 at the appointed time, called for about five minutes, but got no response. I was home by then and listening for him but heard only a very faint whisper. The following morning Ron discovered that all his antennas were encased in ice, many with pronounced bends. The ice probably caused the 10-meter problem.

So with all this, how did we do? Not bad. We made our best score yet with 505 contacts, 97 multipliers, for 128,822 points. This compares to 73,458 points last year and 103,311 points in 2007. Remember we won our class in 2007 and our 128,822 this year beat the winning score from 2008. But 2009 is a different story. NC4KW posted a score of 149,600 points on the 3830 email list. They operated from N1LN and that appears to be a major contest station with multiple towers and multiple beams per band. Very stiff competition!

DX King News

Dick Williams, W3OA

Item 1: Here are the scores reported to me as of February 28:

<u>Call</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Countries</u>	<u>Zones</u>	<u>Total</u>
N4ZC	Unlimited	214	40	254
K4MQG	Unlimited	205	39	244
W3OA	Unlimited	167	36	203
W4HG	Unlimited	159	35	194
W3GQ	Unlimited	150	33	183
WB4ROA	Unlimited	135	35	171
N4PQX	Unlimited	131	34	165
W3ZL	Formula	131	31	162
K4ESE	Unlimited	122	30	152
KZ2I*	Unlimited	117	33	150
N2TU*	Unlimited	99	28	127
K4DGJ	Unlimited	117	28	145
W4ZV*	Unlimited	108	30	138
AA4SC	Unlimited	99	34	134
K8YC	Unlimited	107	26	133
N4UFP	Unlimited	88	26	114
WA3GNW*	Formula	85	24	109
WB2RHM	Unlimited	81	24	105
NK0S*	Unlimited	67	23	90

* New additions to the list this month.

Item 2: You don't need high antennas and an amplifier to participate. Look at W3ZL's score - 162. Cliff's working barefoot with wire antennas in his attic.

Item 3: Don't forget to send me your DX marathon scores as of the last day of each month after your score reaches 100. (w3oa@roadrunner.com)

Historical Milestone—March 3, 2009

By John Scott, K8YC

Most of you know the DXpedition to Desecheo recently ended. What you probably did not know is that the very FIRST ham radio contact ever from Desecheo occurred at 0148Z thirty years earlier on March 3, 1979.

At the CDXA luncheon on March 4, 2009, Roger Burt, N4ZC, called me over to his table to give me "the other side of the story". You see, Roger was there! The team arrived late in the day and had barely finished setting up their sleeping tents, when the team leader suggested they call it a day. Roger and his buddy just couldn't fathom not getting on the air immediately. They stumbled around the campsite in the dark looking for their chosen radio—a Kenwood TS-820. Unfortunately, they couldn't find the external VFO, so they knew they'd have to rely on RIT only for their "split" operation. The RIT on the TS-820 only let them move plus or minus about 2.5 KHz, however. Then, Roger and friend tried to find a place to sink a pipe in the ground to hold their vertical antenna. Apparently the soil on Desecheo was only about 3" deep at their campsite, but they did manage to get the antenna set in place. (Perhaps that is a good thing because of unexploded ordnance!)

Roger wasn't sure if it was he or his buddy who made the first QSO, but a recent communication with another team member who still has the original logs (on paper!) found it was N4ZC who made the first QSO with WB6RSE on that date. Most of the pileup didn't know that Roger was limited to working "UP" only 2.5KHz, but they didn't care!

The Back Page

Charlotte Hamfest has a lot of good things on tap. See Page 1.

CDXA's **DXCC Challenge Award** entrants number 35. Standings on Page 2.

The Annual CDXA **Hamfest Banquet** has good food, great prizes, and wonderful camaraderie—as usual. See Page 3.

With a DXpedition to **Midway Island** coming up in October of this year for the first time in a long time, it is time to look back to Midway at an earlier time. Dick Genaille, W4UW, takes us back on Page 4.

Fifty members of CDXA are on the DXCC Honor Roll. We honor their achievement on Page 5.

One hundred eight members of CDXA hold the DXCC Certificate. Every one of their callsigns is displayed on Page 5.

ARRL's **Triple Play** awardees include three from CDXA. Find out who they are on Page 6.

CW Skimmer seems to have been a useful tool in the ARRL International DX—CW contest. See Page 7.

The CQ Marathon and CDXA's version of same—**DX King**—is attracting some keen interest. See Page 8.

March 3, 1979 was the date that **Desecheo** had its first ever ham radio signal penetrate the ether. Someone you all know was there! See Page 8, and then be sure to go hear Gregg Marco tell us his version of Desecheo—2009 at the Charlotte Hamfest Forums.

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